

Construction Processes for Stormwater Quality Protection

Placer County

Flyer dated 11/19/2004

The Stormwater Quality Improvement Program

As of August 31, 2004, the unincorporated areas of Placer County west of Colfax and Foresthill are subject to the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal phase II



regulations for stormwater quality protection. These Federal and State regulations require additional controls on

potential sources of pollution from construction sites, and actions to prevent long term non-point source pollution from developed sites through appropriate design. Placer County will implement these and other means to improve stormwater quality, such as creating a public education campaign, enforcing a prohibition against illicit discharges, and evaluating and possibly upgrading County facilities and practices to prevent pollution.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, or SWPPP, is the term that is generally used to refer to a construction site water quality control plan.

A Stormwater Management

Plan, or SWMP, is the County's overall plan for stormwater quality protection.

BMPs, or Best Management Practices, is a term used to describe an activity, technique, structure, or device intended to improve stormwater quality.

Non-point source pollution is a general term meaning pollution that is not collected and discharged through pipes, or that is not associated with an industrial process.

This information sheet describes the upcoming changes to the County's construction processes in western Placer County to meet the new requirements. Watch for future updates.



and implement construction site BMPs. The agricultural exemption, and other exemptions not conflicting with the 1 acre requirement from the Grading Ordinance, will remain.

In addition to the local municipal program, the State also requires the

A proposed stormwater ordinance will:

- Prohibit non-stormwater (anything besides rainwater) discharges to stormdrains
- Control construction site wastes
- Prohibit sediment discharge from construction sites
- Require that construction sites apply and maintain BMPs
- Require that post-construction BMPs be installed on new and re-development projects. Proposed post-construction changes are described in a separate flyer.
- Develop enforcement authority

Construction and Stormwater Quality

The County's existing Grading and Erosion Prevention Ordinance (chapter 15 section 28 of the County Code) will continue to be the basis for construction site erosion control requirements and enforcement. In addition to the current conditions necessitating a grading permit, the Grading Ordinance will be amended to apply to all construction sites where one acre or more is dis-

turbed*. This includes projects where no appreciable soil movement is proposed but where vegetation removal disrupts one acre or more, in order to comply with the State requirements for prevention of water pollution from these sites. The grading permit questionnaire will be changed to request applicants to identify such sites. All such sites will be required to get a grading permit

(Construction and Stormwater Quality, continued)

owner of a one acre or larger construction to obtain a construction stormwater permit from the State. The County's municipal NPDES permit requires that we inform the State of any construction sites if the project owner has NOT obtained a construction permit from the State. All projects, including building, grading, and improvement plans where one acre or more is disturbed will be required to demonstrate that they have filed the appropriate Construction General Permit Notice of Intent

with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. This will be done by asking applicants to provide a WDID (Waste Discharge Identification number) and a copy of the approved SWPPP **prior to construction approval.**

The NPDES program requires the County to develop additional authority, besides that in the Grading Ordinance, to control pollution from new development and existing sources. This is proposed through a new stormwater



ordinance to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in late 2004 or early 2005.

* Disturbed areas include all areas that are to be graded or paved, where vegetation is removed, building sites, access and parking areas, storage areas, and anywhere else that existing ground is disrupted.

Construction Site Requirements



All sites will be required to utilize a combination of BMPs that effectively protects the site and prevents anything but clean rainwater from running off-site.

Projects will be expected to maintain additional controls on construction site wastes, such as prohibiting concrete and paint wash-out onto the ground, removing trash and wastes that may flow or blow into the stormdrain and waterways, and providing proper storage of materials. For example, landscaping materials and dirt must be kept out of streets and away from flowage paths, chemicals must be covered and contained, and portable toilets must be placed where the liquid cannot reach the stormdrain system in the event of disruption. Any blowing debris or dust, including from hydroseeding for erosion control purposes, must be prevented from crossing property boundaries.

Construction sites will be subject to additional year round inspections to verify stormwater quality compliance. These may be

additional separate inspections, or may be performed in the course of other routine inspections. Projects under construction must maintain sufficient erosion and sediment control materials onsite at all times, including during the 'dry' season, to be able to effectively protect the site in advance of any storms.

Sites will be inspected monthly during the rainy season and every other month during the dry season. Project sites that are large, steep, have a history of non-compliance, are next to a waterway, or that are otherwise more likely to pollute will be designated as high priority and will be inspected weekly during the rainy season.

Resources for More Information

Placer County

For more information about the stormwater quality program, call the Department of Public Works: (530) 889.7500

Stormwater quality program website: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtrmgmt/strmwtr.htm>

Placer County Stormwater Management Plan: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtrmgmt/StormwaterManagementPlan-Final-0312004.pdf>

California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)

CASQA Best Management Practices Handbooks: <http://www.cabmphandbooks.com>

State Water Resources Control Board

Small Municipal General Permit: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/phase_ii_municipal.html

Construction General Permit: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/finalconstpermit.pdf>